IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving image information, wherein the image information includes a code to indicate whether the image information is permitted to be output;

control means for controlling storage and output of the image information;

storage means for storing, according to control by said control means, the image information received by said receiving means; [[and]]

output means for outputting the image information received by said receiving means in accordance with the code in the image information[[,]] ; and

discriminating means for discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information via said output means,

wherein said control means controls said storage means so that the image information output by said output means is not retained in said storage means after the image information is output by said output means.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information via said output means;

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wherein when said discriminating means discriminates a first mode among the modes, said control means stores the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means, sets said storage means so that the image information stored in said storage means can be overwritten, and controls said output means to output the stored image information, and

wherein, when said discriminating means discriminates a second mode among the modes, said control means controls said output means to output the image information received by said ~~received~~ <u>receiving</u> means without storing the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, ~~further comprising:~~

~~discriminating means for discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information via said output means;~~

wherein when said discriminating means discriminates a first mode among the modes, said control means stores the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means, sets said storage means so that the image information stored in said storage means can be overwritten, and controls said output means to output the stored image information, and

wherein, when said discriminating means discriminates a second mode among the modes, said control means stores the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means, controls said output means to output the stored image information, and erases the image information stored in said storage means after said output means outputs the stored image information.

Claim 18 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on whether a fee is charged for the image information.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on an instruction from an image information transmitter.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on whether a fee is charged for the image information.

Claim 21 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on an instruction from an image information transmitter.

Claim 22 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus connectable to an image output apparatus, comprising:

first determining means for determining whether image data to be transmitted to the image output apparatus is a specific image;

second determining means for determining in accordance with the determination from said first determining means an output mode used by [[said]] the image output apparatus to output image data;

conversion means for converting a format of the image data in accordance with the output mode determined by said second determining means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the image data converted by said

conversion means to the image output apparatus.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An image ~~communication~~ processing apparatus

according to claim 22, wherein said conversion means converts the format of the image data to a

bitmap format in accordance with the output mode determined by said second determining

means.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for controlling an image processing

apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving image information, wherein the image information includes a

code to indicate whether the image information is permitted to be output;

storing the image information in storage, subject to a predetermined

information storage control regime; [[and]]

outputting the image information received in [[the]] said receiving step

in accordance with the code in the image information[[,]]; and

discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information

in said outputting step,

wherein said controlling regime includes controlling so that the image

information output in said outputting step is not retained in the storage after the image

information is output in said outputting step.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method according to claim 24, ~~further~~

~~comprising the step of:~~

~~discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information in said outputting step,~~

wherein when a first mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received in said receiving step is stored in the storage, the storage is set so that the image information stored in the storage can be overwritten, and the stored image information is output, and

<u>wherein</u> when a second mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received by said ~~received~~ <u>receiving</u> means is output without storing the image information in the storage.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method according to claim 24, ~~further comprising the step of:~~

~~discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information in said outputting step,~~

wherein when a first mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received in said receiving step is stored in the storage, the storage is set so that the image information stored in the storage can be overwritten, and the stored image information is output, and

<u>wherein</u> when a second mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received in said receiving step is stored in the storage, the stored image information is output, and the image information stored in the storage is erased after being output.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method according to claim 24, wherein in said discriminating step, modes are discriminated based on whether a fee is charged for the image information.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method according to claim 24, wherein in said ~~discrimination~~ discriminating step, modes are discriminated based on an instruction from an image information transmitter.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for controlling an image processing apparatus connectable to an image output apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

determining whether image data to be transmitted to the image output apparatus is a specific image;

determining in accordance with the determination from said first determining step an output mode used by [[said]] the image output apparatus to output image data;

converting a format of the image data in accordance with the output mode determined in [[the]] said second determining step; and

transmitting the image data converted in [[the]] said converting step to the image output apparatus.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method according to claim 29, wherein [[the]] said conversion step converts the format of the image data to a bitmap format in accordance with the output mode determined in [[the]] said second determining step.